Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Ernst, C.H. 2003. *Trachemys yaquia*.

Trachemys yaquia (Legler and Webb)
Yaqui Slider

Pseudemys scripta yaquia Legler and Webb 1970:158. Type locality, "Río Mayo, Conicarit, Sonora, México [27°14'N, 109°06'W]." Holotype, Univ. Utah Mus. Zool. (UU) 6030, adult female, dry shell and soft parts in alcohol, obtained 23 July 1965 by J.L. Christiansen (examined by primary editor).
Chrysemys scripta yaquia: Smith and Smith 1975:6.
Pseudemys ornata yaquia: Wermuth and Mertens 1977:57.
Chrysemys scripta yaqui: Plymale, Jackson and Collier 1978: 458. *Ex errore*.
Chrysemys scripta (Trachemys) gaigeae: Fritz 1981:27.
Trachemys scripta yaquia: Iverson 1985:5.
Trachemys yaquia: Seidel 2002:289. First use of current combination.

• **CONTENT.** *Trachemys yaquia* is a monotypic species.

• **DEFINITION.** Mature females have carapace lengths of 24.1–30.9 cm and those of mature males range from 16.2–26.8 cm (Legler 1990, Legler and Webb 1970). The carapace is relatively broad (width/length 72–79%), low (height/width 42–48%), slightly flat to rounded dorsally, often straight-sided, rounded in front and back, lacks pronounced posterior serrations, widest across marginal scutes 7–8, and bears a low medial keel on vertebral scutes 3–5. The vertebrals are wider than long, and the pleurals and vertebrals are roughened with longitudinal grooves. The carapace is dark brown to olive-brown with a dark-centered, posterior ocellus on each pleural and vertebral. Marginal scutes have a dark brown or black blotch in the posterior lower corner. The hingeless plastron is flat to slightly concave. The anterior lobe is rounded, the posterior lobe has straight-sided femorals, but anal scutes that taper toward the midline. A shallow posterior notch is present. The plastral formula for scute length is Abdominal > Anal > Femoral > Pectoral > Gular > Humeral (= or > 50% Pectoral). The yellow plastron has a blackish-brown, concenteric central pattern which becomes more obscure with age. The bridge bears a series of concentric dark longitudinal markings, and the undersides of the marginal scutes are yellow with indistinct dark ocelli. Bridge and marginal markings become more solid and distinct with age. The snout is not conspicuously long in either sex. The head bears a yellow-orange supratemporal stripe that extends backward from the posterior-dorsal rim of the orbit to the base of the neck, and is broadest in the temporal region. A second, narrower, lateral yellow stripe runs from the posterior-ventral rim of the orbit onto the neck. A medial yellow stripe extends backward on the chin often forming a Y, and the right and left ramal stripes on each side of it usually do not contact any other stripes on the chin. The triturating surface of the mandible is serrate. The limbs and tail bear yellow stripes.

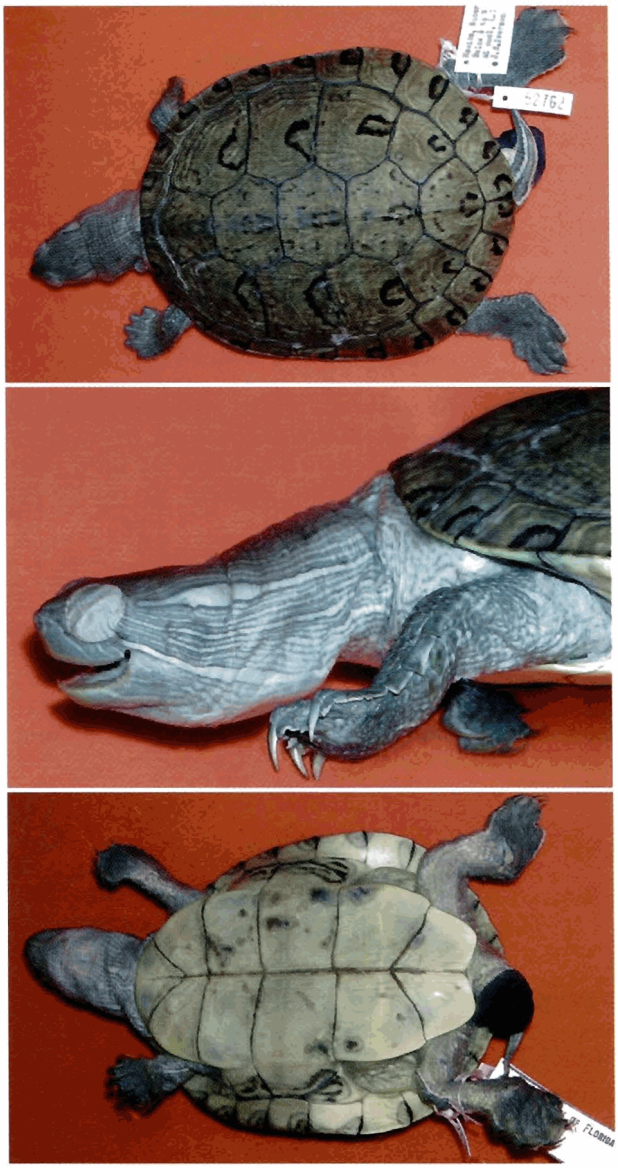
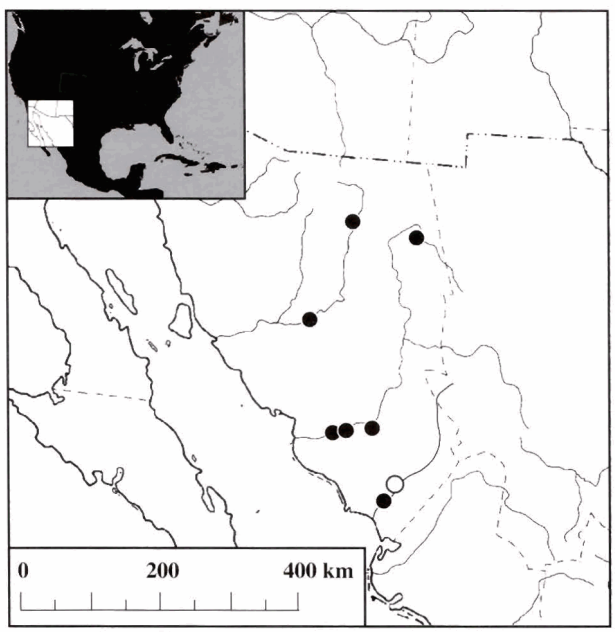


FIGURE. Dorsum, head, and venter of an adult *Trachemys yaquia* (UF52762) from 1 mi S Buena Vista, Sonora, México (photographs courtesy of the Florida Museum of Natural History).



MAP. Distribution of *Trachemys yaquia*: the circle marks the type locality and dots indicate other records. The species is known only from the three indicated river systems; no range outline is provided.

Besides the difference in size, the sexes can be distinguished by the male's longer, thicker tail with the cloacal vent posterior to the carapace rim. Males lack elongated foreclaws.

• **DESCRIPTIONS. General descriptions** are in Bonin et al. (1996), Ernst (1990), Ernst and Barbour (1989), Legler and Webb (1970), Pritchard (1979), Rogner (1995), Smith and Smith (1980), and Ward (1980).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS. Black and white drawings or photographs** are arranged by subject: **carapace** (Legler and Webb 1970, Smith and Smith 1980, Ward 1980), **plastron** (Legler and Webb 1970, Smith and Smith 1980, Ward 1980), **head** (Legler and Webb 1970, Obst 1985, Smith and Smith 1980, Ward 1980), **throat** (Ward 1980), **juvenile** (Legler and Webb 1970), and a **kyphotic individual** (Plymale et al. 1978).

• **DISTRIBUTION.** *Trachemys yaquia* is restricted to the Mayo, Sonora, and Yaqui drainages of Sonora, México. Distributional maps were presented in Ernst (1990), Iverson (1986, 1992), Obst (1985), and Smith and Smith (1980); and distribution was discussed by Ward (1980).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** No fossils have been found.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE. General accounts** are in Legler and Webb (1970) and Smith and Smith (1980). Other subjects are as follows: **systematics and taxonomy** (David 1994, Ernst 1990, Legler 1990, Obst 1983, Seidel 2002, Starkey 1997, Ward 1980), **melanism** (Lovich et al. 1990), **conservation** (Smith and Smith 1980), and **common names** (Iverson 1985, Liner 1994).

• **REMARK.** In his dissertation, Ward (1980) considered *Trachemys scripta yaquia* Legler and Webb 1970 a subspecies of *Trachemys nebulosa* (Van Denburgh 1895) and used the combination *Trachemys nebulosa yaquia* for the taxon. However, *Trachemys nebulosa yaquia* has not been published.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *yaquia* refers to the indigenous Yaqui tribe which historically occupied the area in Sonora, México inhabited by this species.

LITERATURE CITED

Bonin, F., B. Devaux, and A. Dupré. 1996. Toutes les Tortues du Monde. Delachaux en Niestlé, Lausanne, Switzerland.

David, P. 1994. Liste des reptiles actuels du Monde. I. Chelonii. Dumerilia 1:7–127.

Ernst, C.H. 1990. Systematics, taxonomy, variation, and geographic variation of the Slider Turtle, p. 57–67. *In* J.W. Gibbons (ed.), Life History and Ecology of the Slider Turtle. Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington, D.C.

— and R.W. Barbour. 1989. Turtles of the World. Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington, D.C.

Fritz, U. 1981. Zwei interessante mexikanische Schmuckschildkröten der Gatung *Chrysemys* Gray, 1844. Herpetofauna (Germany) 3:25–32.

Iverson, J.B. 1985. Checklist of the turtles of the world with English common names. SSAR Herpetol. Circ. (14): iii + 14 p.

—. 1986. A Checklist with Distribution Maps of the Turtles of the World. Privately printed. Richmond, Indiana.

—. 1992. A Revised Checklist with Distribution Maps of the Turtles of the World. Privately printed. Richmond, Indiana

Legler, J.M. 1990. The genus *Pseudemys* in Mesoamerica: taxonomy, distribution, and origins, p. 82–105. *In* J.W. Gibbons (ed.), Life History and Ecology of the Slider Turtle. Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington, D.C.

— and R.G. Webb. 1970. A new Slider Turtle (*Pseudemys scripta*) from Sonora, Mexico. Herpetologica 26:157–168.

Liner, E.A. 1994. Scientific and common names for the amphibians and reptiles of Mexico in English and Spanish. SSAR Herpetol. Circ. (23):v + 113 p.

Lovich, J.E., C.J. McCoy, and W.R. Garstka. 1990. The development and significance of melanism in the Slider Turtle, p. 233–254. *In* J.W. Gibbons (ed.), Life History and Ecology of the Slider Turtle. Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington, D.C.

Obst, F.J. 1985. Schmuckschildkröten. Die Gattung *Chrysemys*. A. Ziemsen Verlag, Wittenberg Lutherstadt, Germany.

Plymale, H.H., C.G. Jackson, Jr., and G. Collier. 1978. Kyphosis in *Chrysemys scripta yaquia* (Testudines: Emydidae) and other turtles. Southwest. Nat. 23:457–462.

Pritchard, P.C.H. 1979. Encyclopedia of Turtles. T.F.H. Publ., Neptune, New Jersey.

Rogner, M. 1995. Schildkröten 1. Heidi Rogner-Verlag. Hürtgenwald, Germany.

Seidel, M.E. 2002. Taxonomic observations on extant species and subspecies of Slider Turtles, genus *Trachemys*. J. Herpetol. 36:285–292.

Smith, H.M. and R.B. Smith. 1975. An analysis of the knowledge of the turtle fauna of Mexico. Chelonia 2(3):3–8.

— and —. 1980. Synopsis of the herpetofauna of Mexico, Vol. VI. Guide to Mexican Turtles, Bibliographic Addendum III. John Johnson, North Bennington, Vermont.

Starkey, D.E. 1997. Molecular systematics and biogeography of the New World genera *Trachemys* and *Kinosternon*. Unpubl. Ph.D. Diss., Texas A&M Univ., College Station.

Van Denburgh, J. 1895. A review of the herpetology of Lower California. Part 1. Reptiles. Proc. California Acad. Sci. (2)5:77–162.

Ward, J.P. 1980. Comparative cranial morphology of the freshwater turtle subfamily Emydinae: an analysis of the feeding mechanisms and the systematics. Unpubl. Ph.D. Diss., North Carolina St. Univ., Raleigh.

Wermuth, H. and R. Mertens. 1977. Liste der rezenten Amphibien und Reptilien. Testudines, Crocodylia, Rhynchocephalia. Das Tierreich (100):xxvii + 174 p.

CARL H. ERNST, Department of Biology, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030-4444 (cernst@gmu.edu).

Primary editor for this account, Michael E. Seidel.

Published 30 June 2003 and Copyright © 2003 by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.